

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A polymer bushing comprising:
a hard insulation sleeve extending along a longitudinal axis from an upper distal end to a lower end and surrounding and molded integrally with a central conductor bar extending along the longitudinal axis;
a receiving port₁ for receiving a stress cone of a cable terminal, in the lower end of the hard insulation sleeve;
an electric-field stress-control layer surrounding the insulation sleeve;
a polymer cladding disposed around an outer periphery of the stress-control layer, extending from a lower end thereof to the upper distal end of the hard insulation sleeve, and having a plurality of longitudinally spaced shades on its outer periphery ;
an annular metal fitting concentric with the conductor bar and embedded in and fixed to the hard insulating sleeve, the annular metal fitting including a flange being located at a position longitudinally between the lower end of the polymer cladding and the receiving port; and
wherein the electric-field stress-control layer is disposed at an interface between the hard insulation sleeve and the polymer cladding, is in contact with the annular metal fitting and extends longitudinally from the annular metal fitting toward ~~to~~ the upper distal end of the hard insulating sleeve.
5. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4, wherein the metal fitting provides electric-field mitigation.
6. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4, wherein the electric-field stress-control layer is a zinc oxide layer or a high permittivity layer.
7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 having a bend at a position intermediate its ends.

9. (Previously presented) A cable termination wherein a cable terminal portion is mounted in the receiving port of the polymer bushing as defined in claim 4.

Claims 10-15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 8 wherein the bend is at 100-150°.

17. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 8 wherein the bend is at 90°.

18. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 wherein the electrical-field stress-control layer and the polymer cladding cover the distal end of the hard insulation sleeve.

19. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 the hard insulation sleeve has large-diameter and small-diameter portions integrally formed and meeting at a shoulder and wherein the annular metal fitting is seated on the shoulder.

20. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 wherein the receiving port includes a cone-shaped portion.

21. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 wherein the conductor bar, the hard insulation sleeve, the electric-field stress control layer and the polymer cladding are integrally formed by molding.

22. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 wherein the hard insulation sleeve is an epoxy or fiber reinforced plastic.

23. (Previously presented) A polymer bushing as defined in claim 4 wherein the annular metal fitting is in contact with lower ends of both the electric-field stress-control layer and the polymer cladding.